

The Punta Gorda Herald

A. P. JORDAN, Editor

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1906.

SYRUP VS. SUGAR.

The esteemed Times-Union and Citizen of late has been devoting its superior ability to pointing out to capitalists the golden opportunity offered them in the establishment of a sugar refinery in Jacksonville. Its arguments are perfectly sound, but the trouble is, you cannot reason with a man who is scared and is running away from danger.

The St. Cloud failure stands in the eyes of capitalists as a menace to any more experiments of that kind. Neither the very clear and satisfactory explanations of Capt. Rose nor the able logic of the Times-Union and Citizen can avail very so on to allay the apprehensions of capitalists who undoubtedly view the St. Cloud failure as a fact and not a theory. The mere fact is sufficient for them, at least for some years to come.

What then? Is the cause of the sugar cane grower to be abandoned? By no means. There is something that is better for him than a central sugar refinery; it is a central syrup refinery. To this object, let the Times-Union and Citizen address its powerful efforts, and something is very likely to be accomplished.

A syrup refinery will cost much less than one for sugar and it would not provoke the hostility of the sugar trust. Further, at this stage of Florida's development, it is more needed than a great sugar refinery.

It is well known that there is a growing demand for Florida syrup, especially for the better grades. In this region at least the demand keeps the retail price at 75c. a gallon the year round.

It is also known that there is no uniformity in the quality of the home-made article that is put on the local market.

A refinery is needed to take all the syrup made in the State and reduce it to uniform grades so that the consumer, in buying, will know just what quality he is getting. It should be put up in air-tight cans, as is done in Cairo, Ga., and shipped to retail merchants in any quantity desired.

With such a refinery in operation in Jacksonville, one backed by ample capital and capable of handling properly a vast quantity of syrup, the results would be that the farmers could readily dispose of all their syrup to the home merchant and the latter could and would send it to Jacksonville to be refined and graded and returned to him at times and in quantities demanded by his trade.

Thus the small country merchant, in buying from the farmers, would never apprehend any danger of becoming over-stocked and he would therefore take all that the farmers had to offer. At the same time the small farmer would not find it necessary to act on Capt. Rose's advice to discard his old-fashioned boilers and two-roller mill and replace them with more expensive apparatus.

Whatever waste there might be in the old-fashioned process would be offset by the small farmer's making more than enough of syrup for his own use and having his bagasse to mulch his trees and feed his hogs. And, by the way, the "skimmings" might be sent to Jacksonville to be made into the best kind of rum.

The transportation of the boiled juice would be more convenient and less expensive than that of sugar cane in bulk.

A central syrup refinery, in a word, would put the syrup business of this State on the commercial footing of

RAILWAY TO BOCA GRANDE.

Progress and Route of the Survey.

A railroad to Boca Grande has been long talked about. It is projected to connect at Palmetto and Bradenton with the branch of the Seaboard Air Line now running to those towns.

A survey, beginning at Boca Grande was started several weeks ago. Its progress is thus reported by the Sarasota Times of Dec. 18th: The road is located and leveled from Boca Grande on Big Gasparilla Island to Osprey, and locative survey is being continued from Osprey to Sarasota.

It is located at an initial point at Boca Grande, where are the U. S. naval hospital, quarantine and light house for this pass. The road runs up the center of Big Gasparilla Island about seven miles to its north end, where it is continued across Little Gasparilla bay to mouth of Coral creek, and from thence to Grove City, Englewood, Venice, Osprey and to Sarasota.

Gasparilla Island is a sand and shell key, such as is common along the seaboard of the Gulf of Mexico in South Florida, and is covered with grass, cabbage palmetto and mangrove, the latter very dense and thick along the bay or inside shore of the island. In many places the island is very beautiful, with open glades of grass and magnificent groves of cabbage palm looking like a beautifully laid out and well kept park. In fact there are quite a number of elegant and attractive places on this island for residences.

Passing from this island over two miles of water we land at that noted locality for pirates, treasures, the mouth of Coral Creek. Here we find a land of beautiful high pine woods and lakes. Many large creeks cross the line of road from the point up, and the Bay shores from Grove City to Sarasota offer the most desirable locations for orange groves and homes.

Englewood, on Lemon bay, is a pleasant winter resort with an excellent hotel. The road will pass within a quarter of a mile from the town.

All around Venice are beautiful and fruitful orange groves owned and occupied by intelligent and well-to-do citizens, and the road will develop all this region and bring into being many more groves and a much larger acreage of land for market gardens.

At Osprey is the famed and well known winter resort of Judge J. G. Webb, who has been there for more than twenty years, and it is through his effort that the shores of Little Sarasota Bay are now dotted with many fine residences and beautiful orange groves.

Sarasota is the shipping point for a large scope of territory and the railroad will add to its importance as a summer and winter resort and as a business center. On Sarasota Bay are some fine residences.

The foregoing, as stated, is from the Sarasota Times. It will be observed that the Times takes it for granted that the road will be built. So does THE HERALD. Its building will contribute immensely to the development of the Lemon Bay section and also add something to the material interests of Punta Gorda.

It will be near enough to give Punta Gorda competitive freight rates, and it will not attract our fishing business to Boca Grande for the very simple reason that the Atlantic Coast Line does not intend to surrender our fishing business.

When fish are loaded on a sharpie, a few miles difference in distance does not outweigh a cheaper freight rate; accordingly, the sharpie will pass Boca Grande and come to Punta Gorda. Especially, as we will have 300 tons of ice every day and Boca Grande with its winds does not offer a pleasant place for light boats to load and unload.

Yes; Punta Gorda will survive the building of all railroads and bask in the radiance of the prosperity of her neighbors. Happy New Year, she wishes to all of them.

The DeLand Record says that Charlie Dougherty may be a candidate for the United States Senate.

The Gainesville Sun quotes authorities to prove that granulated sugar is manufactured at a total cost of 3 to 3 1/2 cents a pound. But the trust and the tariff force consumers to pay 6 cents a pound.

Gainesville Sun: The book trust continues to tax the people of Florida double the amount it should exact for school books. The only relief from the octopus is in State uniformity, and the next legislature should not be slow to enact such a law.

This coming from that veteran journalist, Col. Frank Harris of the Ocala Banner, is a compliment worthy of the highest appreciation: Talking about weekly newspapers, THE PUNTA GORDA HERALD is one of the best and brightest that reaches our exchange table."

The suggestion of the Times-Union and Citizen that the State Fair be a permanent location and that the legislature make an appropriation to aid it, has received the endorsement of the Florida Legislature. There is plenty of argument for the proposition and none against it. As far as location is concerned, South Florida would prefer Tampa, but that metropolis does not want it, and as a second location Ocala would receive the support of this section.

NEW LAW FIRM.

The new law firm of Sauls, Leitner & Bell, opened up an office here over Roberts' drug store this week. It is in charge of the junior partner, Mr. W. D. Bell, a gentleman of brains, energy and integrity. Messrs. Sauls and Leitner, as is known, are located in Arcadia and need no introduction to our people by whom they are highly respected. The firm practices in all the courts, making a specialty of admiralty. See their card in this paper.

Must be an awful hard job to marry some rich people. It sometimes takes a bishop and one or more assistant preachers, and even then there is no guarantee against divorce.

The Jacksonville Metropolis issued a 40-page Christmas edition last Saturday. It was an exhibition of journalistic enterprise, editorial ability and mechanical capacity worthy of our chief city and of Messrs. Carter and Russell, the proprietors, who have made the Metropolis one of the best newspapers in the South. As a State paper the Metropolis is a credit to Florida.

THE HERALD has exhausted its supply of appropriate adjectives in the effort to bestow deserved praise upon the special editions issued last week by several of its valued exchanges, but the Daytona Gazette-News must and shall have a merited mention, adjective or no adjective. Its special edition comprised 12 pages, two of which were printed in red and all of them bore evidence of the ability and enterprise of Editor Fitzgerald. In the Gazette-News, Daytona has a newspaper of which she should be, and doubtless is, proud, for it is one of the very best in the State.

Sunday's Times-Union and Citizen was a great newspaper. It was the Christmas edition and consisted of 32 pages replete with reading matter on a wide variety of subjects with many appropriate illustrations. The interests of Florida, as is natural with our great daily, received special attention. The edition as a whole was a splendid piece of newspaper enterprise meriting the highest commendation. The editors of the Times-Union and Citizen have a right to feel proud of their work in giving the State such a brilliant specimen of their ability.

A superb special edition of the Barlow Courier-Informant was issued last week. It consisted of 23 pages profusely illustrated with pictures showing the men, the improvements, industries and resources of Polk county. All these were fully and ably written up. The edition is worth thousands of dollars to the county and is likewise of great value to the State. It will have a splendid effect in attracting attention to Polk's many advantages. The immense amount of work in getting it up and out excuses Editor Sweat for having failed to credit THE HERALD with the article on "Florida's Great Advantages," which he reproduced in full.

Foley's Honey and Tar for children, safe, sure. No opiates.

The China Store ROBINSON & CO., Proprietors.

Has just received a varied and elegant line of China, Glassware and Notions, and is offering the same at the lowest prices. Call and see the new goods.

Punta Gorda, - - - Florida.

Tin Cans AND Bottles

You will find, filled with the nicest fruits, vegetables and dressings. We have just received a nice line of Canned Goods, we believe, as ever came to Punta Gorda.

All kinds preserves in glass; New England pickles in glass and bulk; French peas, string beans, rhubarb, tomatoes, catsup, apple butter, jams and jellies, honey, marmalades.

Our preserved figs are particularly fine.

All staple and fancy Groceries usually kept in a first-class store, you will find with us.

We have a large assortment of Enamel ware and Tinware.

Look at our Stoves, if in need of something good at a low price.

Hardware arriving all the time.

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THE BEST YET.

The Ariel Quartet, Next Wednesday Night.

The best entertainment hitherto furnished by the Lyceum Association will be given in the school house next Wednesday night by the Ariel Quartet. The quartet is composed of four young ladies who are accomplished singers, musicians and delineators.

Wherever they have exhibited, they have given complete satisfaction and we do not hesitate to promise as much for them here. Their entertainment consists of songs, solos and quartets, violin solos, recitations and spectacular drills, all of which are given in the most artistic style. No one who enjoys good music should fail to be present.

Tickets may be had at the bank from Mr. M. V. Williams, secretary.

CHILDREN'S NOTICE.

The children of the Junior Auxiliary will give a Five Cent Tea at the Rectory from 3 to 5 on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 30. They will have for sale a few articles of their own making. All are cordially invited.

NEW EMPLOYMENT AGENCY.

All who are in need of domestic or any other kind of help, such as cooks, house servants, gardeners or workmen or workwomen of any kind, are invited to apply to WILL J. BROWN, Marian avenue in front of Seward's stables.

FINE CARPENTER TOOLS FOR SALE.

Will be sold at public sale on Saturday, Jan. 3, 1907, between 10 a. m. and noon, two carpenter chests with contents including fine tools, and one sailor's bag with blankets and other contents. Terms cash.

B. A. WACHON, F. M. COOPER, Committee.

If you want Drugs and Medicines—see us. If you want Stationery and Books—we are the people. If we please you—tell others, if we don't—tell us.

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THE HERALD.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

New line of ladies' capes and jackets at Earnest's.

Robinson's Thermal Bath Cabinets, 16 grade at \$5.50. Only a few left at Earnest's.

Arrow Brand collars and cuffs. Best in the world. 2 for 25 cents. All the new styles at Earnest's.

Ladies', misses' and children's capes and jackets at very low prices—at Earnest's.

Royal Blue shoes for men. None better made, at Earnest's.

Special low prices for Xmas trade on ladies', misses' and children's Coats and jackets at Earnest's.

A new shipment of ladies' muslin underwear just received at Elliott's.

Hats, the latest, at J. R. Elliott's.

A new line of Douglas shoes, all the latest shapes and leathers at J. R. Elliott's.

Now is the time to get a Holly Day gift at the very lowest price. Come soon to J. R. Elliott's.

A suit of clothes at Elliott's with an iron-clad insurance policy. If suit does not give entire satisfaction you get a new suit.

Xmas goods going at Elliott's at the very lowest prices. Come and see what bargains we are offering.

Overcoats, Capes and Jackets for this cold weather, prices right at J. R. Elliott's.

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Brandy, \$2.00. Orange Brandy, \$2.00. Peach and Honey, \$2.00. Blackberry Wine, \$2.00.

Grape Wine, \$1.75. Port Wine, \$1.75. Gin, \$2.00 and \$3.00. Rum, \$2.00.

If you desire pure old goods for medicinal use, my old Whiskey and Brandy can't be beat. All orders filled same day as received. A trial order will convince you that it is to your interest to deal with me. I refer you to our Express Agent or any Merchant in Cherryville, or Commercial Agencies.

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